

Figure 1.

### Definition of Disability, Functional Limitations, Activities of Daily Living (ADLs), and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs)

A person has a disability if they have either a ☒ or ✓

☒ = Person is defined as having a nonsevere disability

✓ = Person is defined as having a severe disability

Types of disabilities	Age			
	Under 3	3 to 5	6 to 14	15 and over
Used a wheelchair, a cane, crutches, or a walker			✓	✓
Had difficulty performing one or more functional activities (seeing, hearing, speaking, lifting/carrying, using stairs, walking, or grasping small objects)				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unable to perform or needed help to perform one or more of the functional activities				✓
Had difficulty with one or more activities of daily living (ADLs included getting around inside the home, getting in or out of bed or a chair, bathing, dressing, eating, and toileting)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unable to perform or needed help to perform one or more ADLs			✓	✓
Had difficulty with one or more instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs included going outside the home, keeping track of money and bills, preparing meals, doing light housework, taking prescription medicines in the right amount at the right time, and using the telephone)				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unable to perform or needed help to perform one or more IADLs				✓
Had one or more specified conditions: a learning disability or some other type of mental or emotional condition			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Had one or more specified conditions: mental retardation or another developmental disability, or Alzheimer's disease				✓
Had any other mental or emotional condition that seriously interfered with everyday activities				✓
Had a condition that limited the ability to work around the house or made it difficult to remain employed				✓
Had one or more specified conditions: autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, or another developmental disability			✓	
Had difficulty performing one or more functional activities (seeing, hearing, speaking, walking, running, or taking part in sports)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Unable to perform or needed help to perform one or more of the functional activities			✓	
Developmental delay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Difficulty walking, running, or playing		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Difficulty moving arms or legs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

Note: The concepts and methods used to define "disability," ADLs, or IADLs are not unique to this report. The definitions for ADLs and IADLs are consistent with those used by other agencies, including the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey and the National Health Interview Survey. See *Related Materials* for more details about the questionnaire or definition of disability.